

PRIORITY FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

Support the good international work of existing networks of Canadians

KEY INITIATIVES

- Seek regular input from Canadian NGOs, labour unions, business groups, academics and professional bodies
- Expand the international public diplomacy program to promote Canadian culture, innovation, education and business opportunities
- Reform our consular services to provide high-quality support to Canadians
- Encourage academic networking among Canadian institutions through the International Academic Mobility Initiative
- Support the efforts of Canadian diasporas to forge transnational political, economic and cultural links
- Collaborate with the provinces on a "Smart Networks" initiative to build direct cooperation between Canadian institutions and their counterparts abroad

that is particularly in demand as population migration from rural to urban areas continues unabated in the developing world. The 2006 World Urban Forum in Vancouver will allow Canadian cities to share their ideas and expertise, and learn from other municipalities from across the globe.

Canadians are already busy global citizens. Our NGOs, labour unions, business groups, universities and professional bodies have widespread international connections. Their expertise is well respected in many fields, particularly those related to human rights, governance and development. Younger Canadians travel, work and study abroad more than ever before, and think in terms of networks rather than geographical units. Our multiculturalism also means that many Canadians are part of broader diasporas that link nations directly and transmit impressions of our country to the world. In times of crisis, like the recent tsunamis, their efforts are a substantial component of Canada's overall response. These professional and personal networks make a powerful contribution to Canada's international success.

Empowering individual Canadians, wherever they reside, demands a subtle shift in focus. For Foreign Affairs this translates into greater emphasis on consular services to support Canadians abroad, ensuring that those working and studying abroad do so in the safest possible conditions, by tightening security at our missions. For the Government as a whole, fostering academic and professional partnerships between Canadians and foreign counterparts takes on added significance. Showcasing Canadian artistry and innovation to the world will cultivate long-term relationships, dialogue and understanding abroad. These activities have taken on new significance as modern diplomacy increasingly trades on established credibility. By supporting the efforts of individual Canadians we confirm the reality of the 21st century: Canada is a network of people and values whose hub is north of the 49th parallel, but whose worldwide reach is growing every day.